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1/6



FIG. 1

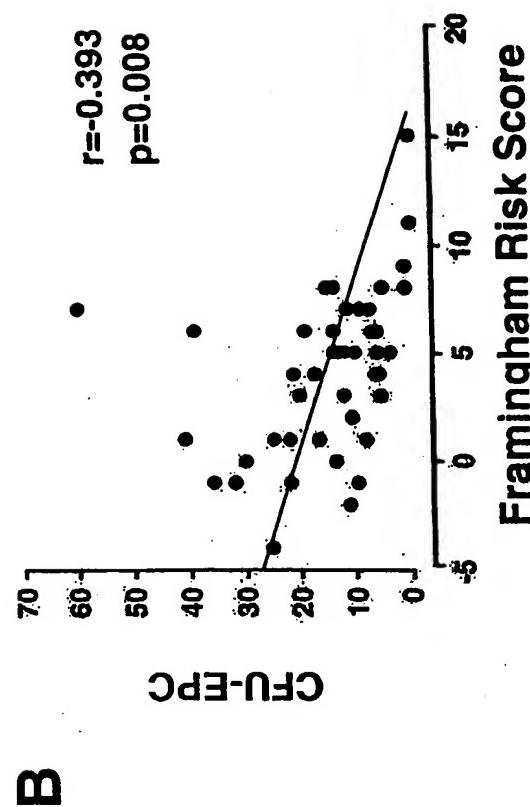
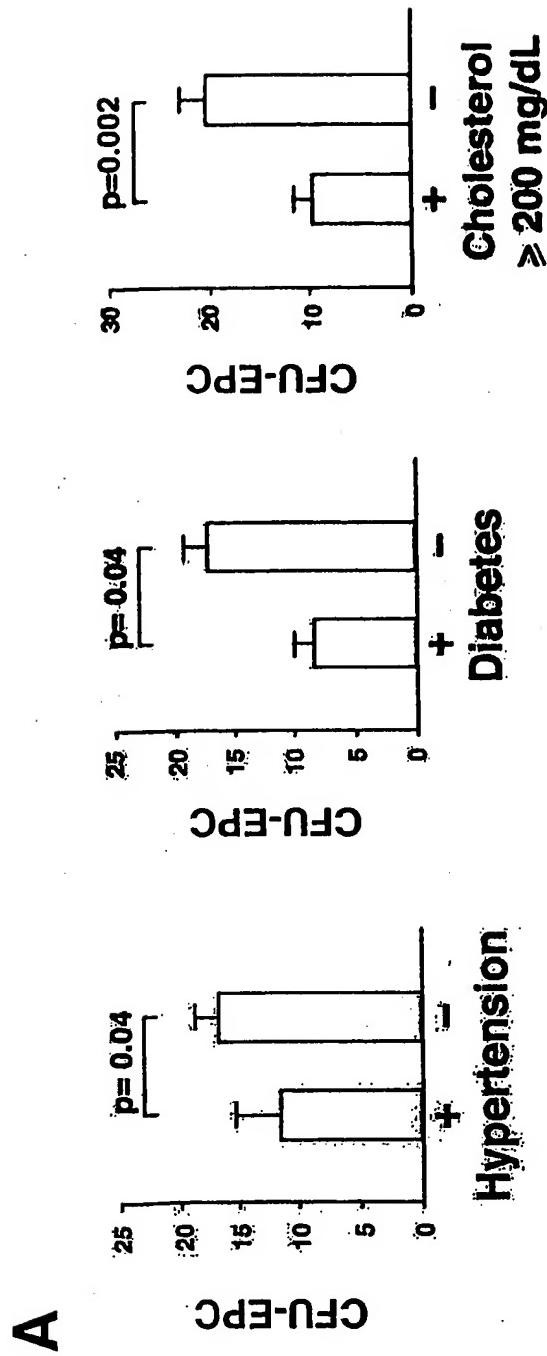
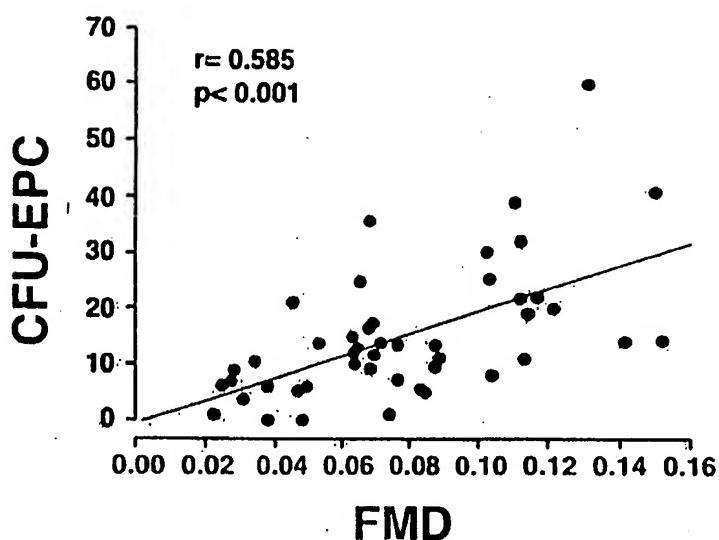
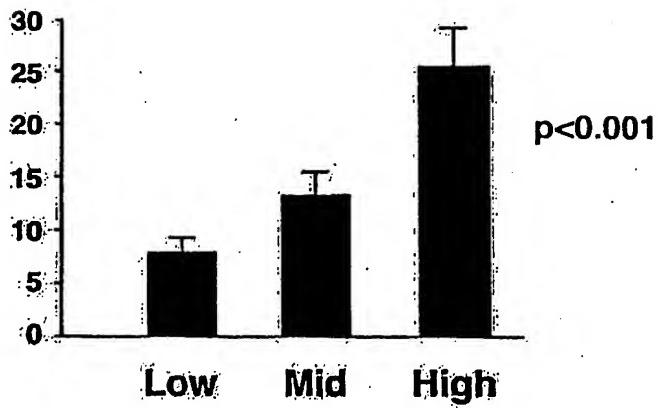
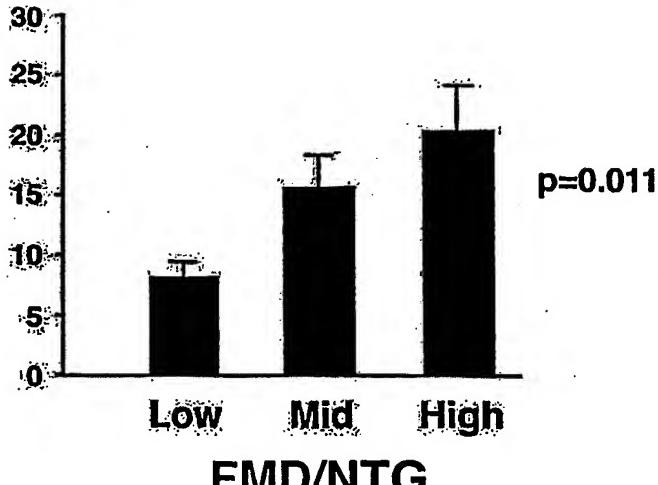
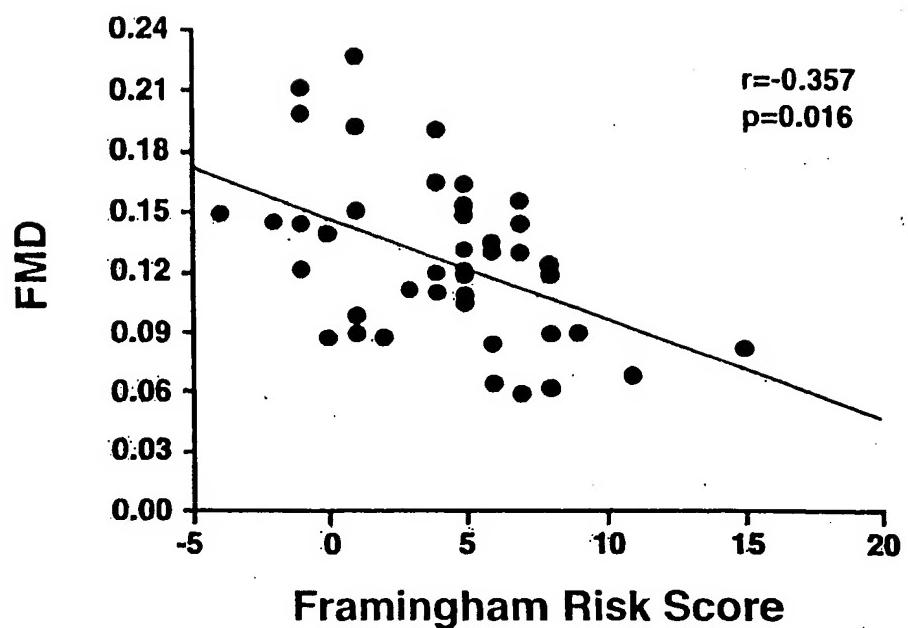
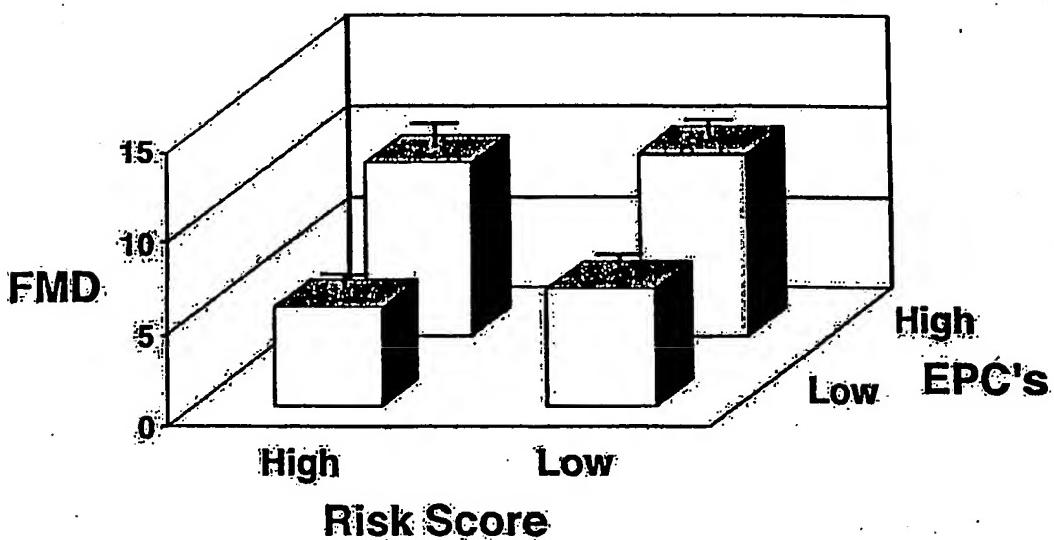


FIG. 2

3/6

A**B****C****FIG. 3**

A**B****FIG. 4**

5/6

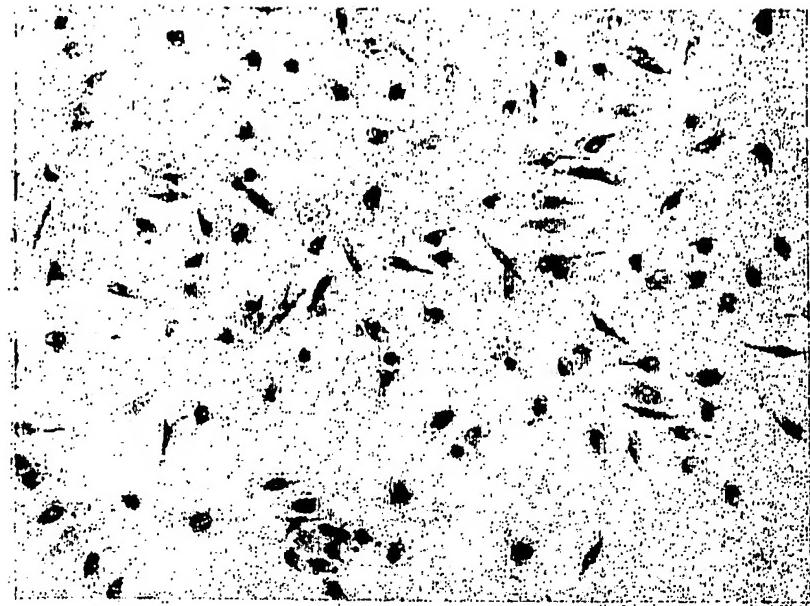
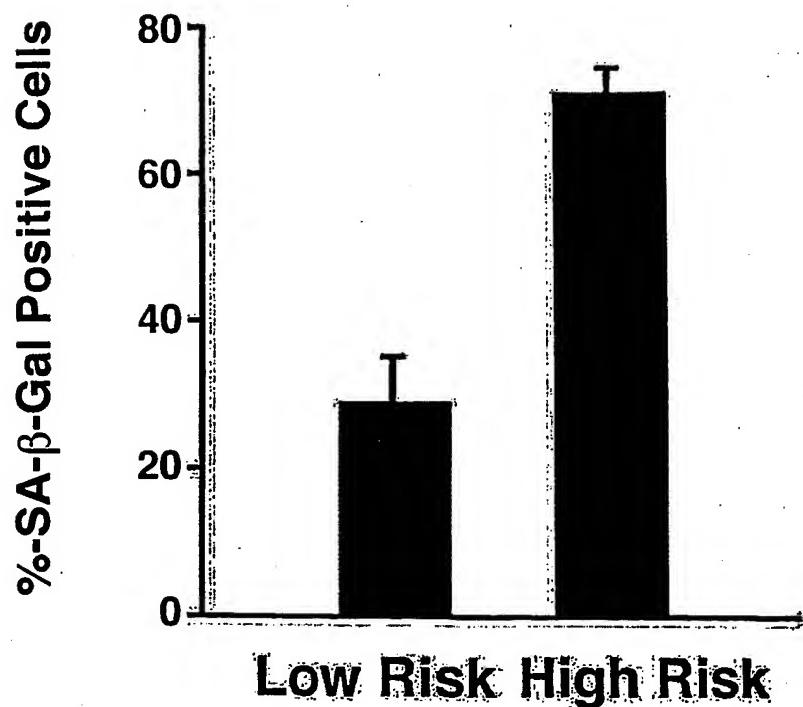
A**B**

FIG. 5

Characteristics of the 45 Patients According to the Level of Circulating Endothelial Progenitor Cells*

Characteristic	High Cell Count, (n=45)	Intermediate Cell Count, (n=15)	Low Cell Count, (n=15)	P Value†
All Subjects	28.4±3.0	12.4±0.4	4.7±0.8	
Age - yr	50±2	46±3	50±3	0.07
Body-mass index	28±0.6	28±1.0	27±1.0	0.80
Glucose - mg/dl	100±5.0	92±3.0	101±11.0	0.09
Total Cholesterol - mg/dl	200±6.0	182±11.0	193±11.0	0.002
Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol - mg/dl	138±5.0	127±9.0	131±8.0	0.02
High-density lipoprotein cholesterol - mg/dl	48±2.0	49±3.0	46±2.0	0.80
Triglycerides - mg/dl	148±16	112±16	150±27	0.09
Insulin - µU/ml	16.1±3.0	12±2	21±8	0.46
Hypertension - no. (%)	10 (22)	1 (7)	1 (7)	0.01
Diabetes - no. (%)	10 (22)	0	5 (33)	0.04
Smoker - no. (%)	3 (7)	1 (7)	0	1.00
Framingham risk score‡	4.2±0.6	1.8±0.8	4.1±0.8	<0.001
Flow-mediated brachial reactivity - % change from base line	7.8±0.5	10.0±0.8	8.2±0.8	<0.001
Nitroglycerin response - %	12.6±0.6	14.3±1.0	12.4±0.9	0.06

*Plus-minus values are means ±SE. Body-mass index is the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters. To convert values for glucose to millimoles per liter, multiply by 0.05551. To convert values for cholesterol to millimoles per liter, multiply by 0.02586. To convert values for triglycerides to millimoles per liter, multiply by 0.01129.

†P values are from a t-test comparison of the highest and lowest cell-count groups. Noncategorical results were verified with the use of nonparametric tests and were adjusted for age. All statistically significant relations remained significant in subsequent analyses.

‡The Framingham risk score can range from -6 to 19, with higher scores indicating greater cardiovascular risk.

FIG. 6